

Tennessee Pollution Prevention Partnership Success Story



Poplar Grove School
2959 Del Rio Pike
Franklin, TN 37069
<http://www.fssd.org/pgsweb/>



Poplar Grove School Land & Water Projects

The Member

Poplar Grove School is a community of creative and compassionate learners committed to continuous improvement. Poplar Grove was built on and named for the home site of Abram Maury, one of Franklin's founding fathers. We are a kindergarten through eighth grade balanced calendar school that opened in July 2000. We have over 1,100 students and faculty. Poplar Grove School is committed to caring for the environment. Students are involved in activities that conserve, enhance and protect our school and community.

The Story

To meet Green School criteria, teachers recognized the need for hands-on student education involving land and water conservation. Many opportunities were provided to enhance learning, improve the school grounds for environmental education, and extend land and water conservation into the community.

The Success

Poplar Grove students had an exciting year filled with environmentally friendly activities. Teachers and students discussed ways to conserve our natural resources. Over 500 students participated in an Earth Day awareness poster contest. One poster from each grade was selected on neatness, creativity, and conveying the message to protect the earth. Students' posters were displayed during a school-wide, environmental awareness assembly.

The 4th grade students listened to a local historian tell about early TN history, explored stream ecology and identified native plants and trees on a Natchez Trace field trip. Sixth graders participated in similar activities on a three-day field trip to the Great Smoky Mountain Institute at Tremont. Two hundred 4th and 5th graders attended an Arbor Day assembly and took home native Witch Hazel trees to plant. The Green Team assisted Keep Williamson Beautiful in distributing 2000 American Plum trees and 3000 Witch Hazel trees at the Bloom 'n Gardens Show.

The Communication and Socialization Instruction (CSI) classroom cultivated an herb and perennial garden. The 875 sq. ft. garden was recently updated with raised beds for ease of use by the special needs students. Herbs are used in cooking activities. Former PGS Boy Scouts

prepared a stone path through the garden. Bees, butterflies, hummingbirds and songbirds were seen in the garden.

The elementary art classes studied the life cycle of the Monarch butterfly and monitored their migration via the internet. Colorful Monarch artwork was displayed in the elementary halls. The 2nd grade classes learned about vermicomposting. Students reused food scraps from home and leftovers from lunch in their compost. Compost was added to classroom container gardens.

PGS is a member of the Harpeth River Watershed Association. With a presentation by a HRWA representative, 5th grade students made a watershed model and learned about preventing non-point source water pollution and protecting water quality. Mrs. Webb's 7th grade English classes compiled environmental research papers on topics including water conservation and protecting the Harpeth River. Examples of this research are posted on our PGS Green webpage.



2nd graders learn about worms and vermicomposting

The Pollution Prevented

At Poplar Grove, we are committed to continuous improvement in learning and environmental management of our school and grounds. Students gained knowledge and experience through land and water conservation projects. The campus garden is now 875 sq. ft. Students were able to add 5,200 new trees to the community, make and use compost for gardens, and extend learning beyond the campus through field trips to the Natchez Trace and Great Smoky Mountains. Our partnership with the HRWA is helping students understand the need for water conservation, while thinking globally and acting locally.

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